

## **IN THE SPECIFICATION**

These following replacement paragraphs clarify the specification.

Applicants submit that no new matter is injected into the application by way of the se replacement paragraphs.

**Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 21 with the following paragraph:**

Fig. 1 shows an exemplary embodiment of a securing apparatus, generally 10, used to secure a small recreational vehicle to a bed of a towing vehicle. In particular, in Fig. 1, the securing apparatus 10 is secured to a tongue 22 of a towing vehicle, or trailer, generally 20. The trailer 20 has a flatbed 24 on which a small recreational vehicle, or, in this case, an all terrain vehicle ("ATV") generally 30, is placed. The securing apparatus 10 has a mounting shaft 11 integral to a mounting base 18. To attach the mounting shaft 11 to the tongue 22, the mounting base 18 can be connected to a holding plate 16 by securing bolts 39 and securing nuts 38. The mounting base 18 is placed on the bedside 23 of the tongue 22 while the holding plate is placed on the roadside 25 of the tongue 22. Securing bolts 39 are then placed through apertures in the holding plate 16 and the mounting base 18 in a known manner. Securing nuts 38 are then screwed onto the securing bolts 9 39 to tighten and hold the mounting base 18 and the mounting shaft 11 in an erect position above the flatbed 24 of the trailer 20. Other manners for securing the mounting shaft 11 to the trailer tongue 22 as are known in the art may be used. For example, the mounting shaft 11

may be welded onto the tongue 22 or may be removable attached in some other manner.

**Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 1 with the following paragraph:**

Fig. 4 illustrates a further embodiment of a securing device, generally 210. As with previous embodiments, a mounting shaft 211 may be mounted proximal to a flatbed 24 of a towing vehicle, or in this case a trailer, generally 20. The mounting shaft 211 has a U-shaped receiver 212 securely mounted thereto. To secure the small recreational vehicle 30 to the mounting shaft 211, a securing ring assembly 213 is permanently attached to a portion of the small recreational vehicle 30, in particular, a bush guard 32. Unlike the previously securing ring assemblies, the securing ring assembly 213 is permanently attached to the bush guard 32. In this manner, it makes it harder for someone interested in improperly removing the vehicle from the bed of the towing vehicle from doing so by preventing such a person from detaching the securing ring assembly 213 from the small recreational vehicle 30. In such an embodiment, the securing ring 213 is made up of a ring plate 217 and a securing ring ~~49~~ 219. The ring plate 217 in this example is welded to the bush guard 32 of the small recreational vehicle 30.

**Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 1 with the following paragraph:**

Fig. 5 shows a further embodiment of a securing apparatus 110. In this embodiment, the securing apparatus 110 has a mounting shaft 111 which is a U-shaped channel strut that is attached to a mounting base 118. In operation, a

receiver 112 having parallel arms is placed in the channel of the mounting shaft 111 so that the arms of the receiver 112 extend outward. The receiver 112 may be attached at an appropriate height to align a receiver with a securing ring assembly 113, which may be attached to a small recreational vehicle. To obtain the proper alignment, an aperture in the portion of receiver 112 running parallel to the shaft 111 is aligned with an appropriate mounting aperture 107 through which a securing bolt 109 is placed. A securing nut 108 is then tightened onto the security bolt 109 to securely attach the receiver 112 to the mounting shaft as can be seen in the cut a way view of the mounting shaft 111. By having the receiver placed on the inside of the channel in shaft 111, the receiver 112 is ~~prevent~~ prevented from being twisted around the securing bolt ~~404~~ 109. Further, such placement of receiver 112 in the shaft 111 adds lateral support to the receiver 112.